

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 10/046,075
Our Ref: Q68122

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claim 4.

I. Drawings:

The Examiner objects to the drawings because Figs. 4-6 should be designated with a "Prior Art" legend. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The specification refers to Figs. 4-6 as depicting devices according to "convention" or "related art." Applicants use these terms to the extent that these devices relate to "in house" knowledge (i.e., known within Applicants' company). In fact, Figs. 4-6 depict the inventors' ideas during a development stage, but no actual product actually existed. For these reasons, Figs. 4-6 are not "Prior Art" and, therefore, do not need to be labeled as such.

II. Claim Rejections on Prior Art Grounds:

The Examiner rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,691,506 to Miyazaki, et al. ("Miyazaki"); and claims 1-6 under § 103(a) as being obvious over Figs. 4-6 of the present application in view of Miyazaki. Applicants respectfully traverse all of these rejection in view of the following remarks.

With respect to the obviousness rejection, Applicants again note that Figs. 4-6 are not "Prior Art," as alleged by the Examiner. Consequently, the Examiner's reliance upon the same is misplaced.

With respect to the § 102 rejection based on Miyazaki, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the reinforcing rib and the shield member are formed of a *one-piece construction*. At

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least this feature, in combination with the other limitations recited in claim 1, are not taught or suggested by the prior art relied upon by the Examiner.

Referring to Figure 5 of Miyazaki, the Examiner contends that reference numeral 121 corresponds to the claimed plate member and that reference numeral 122 corresponds to the claimed connection portion. In sharp contrast to the present invention, however, Miyazaki does not provide a shield cap 120 and a rib that together form a *one-piece construction*. Indeed, as clearly shown in Fig. 6, the shield cap 120 includes a plurality of elements that are assembled together. On this basis, Applicants submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims patentably distinguish over Miyazaki.

Claim 6, which is amended for clarification, is similar to claim 1 in that it recites (among other things) that the reinforcing rib and the shield member are formed of a *one-piece construction*. Consequently, claim 6 is believed to be patentable for reasons analogous to those noted above with respect to claim 1.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1 and 6 are patentable, and that claims 2, 3, and 5 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: February 21, 2003

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 4 is canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A shield connection structure comprising:
a conductive shield member including
a plate member having a hole in which a shielded wire is inserted,
a connection portion for connecting to a shielding portion of the shielded wire,
and
a reinforcing rib formed on a peripheral edge portion of said shield member;
wherein said shield member is fixed to a casing for grounding; and
wherein said reinforcing rib and said shield member are formed of a one-piece
construction.

6. (Amended) A shield member fixed to a casing for grounding comprising:
a plate member having a hole;
a connection portion having a tubular shape provided around the hole for supporting and
connecting to a shielding portion of a shielded wire; and

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a reinforcing rib ~~integrally formed~~provided on a peripheral edge portion of said shield member, wherein said reinforcing rib and said shield member are formed of a one-piece construction.